FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MARCHERS OBTAIN PERMISSION TO TRANSIT HONDURAS

PA220437 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2355 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Managua, 21 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The 350 members of the March for Peace in Central America have obtained permission to cross Honduran territory, spokesmen for the movement said today.

They explained that they obtained transit permission at the Honduran Embassy in Managua and said that the Salvadoran Government has not yet issued "a positive or negative" reply regarding the march's transit through that country.

Meanwhile, the Guatemalan Government reported that the marchers will be allowed to enter the country as long as they comply with immigration requirements.

During a press conference held this afternoon, Danish journalist Ron Ridenom replied to accusations that the group is financed by the USSR. He said that they are a movement independent of governments and political parties.

Permission Denied

PA221938 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1653 GMT 22 Dec 85

[By Francisco Javier Mejia]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government reasserted today that it will not allow the March for Peace in Central America to enter the country, even though the marchers announced yesterday in Managua that they had permission to do so.

A press communique issued today by the Information and Press Directorate of the Honduran Foreign Secretariat states: "The government of the republic, by enforcing national laws, has decided that the entry of those persons into Honduran territory is not appropriate."

The marchers announced yesterday during a news conference that the 350 participants in the march had obtained the necessary authorization to enter Honduras.

The march, organized by American and European intellectuals, and ecological, peace, and religious organizations -- and is also supported by Socialist International -- started on 10 December in Panama City and must end on 22 January in Mexico City, according to the initial schedule.

The Honduran Government's communique about the march added that "it has received no official request for permission for part of the so-called March for Peace in Central America to be held in our territory. Neither the alleged participants nor the organizations within the mentioned activity have contacted the competent authorities in order to obtain the necessary permit and thus carry out the announced acts in Honduras," the official note asserts.

The Honduran authorities, "bearing in mind that these kinds of activities might be used to disrupt public order, as has been the case with the same march for peace in another Central American country," thinks that the marchers "might indefinitely install themselves in our territory since they do not have a specific and official authorization from neighboring countries, toward which they would depart following their stay in Honduras."

The note adds: This decision "diminishes in a certain way the Honduran tradition which ensures people's free transit through our country, as long as they fulfill the conditions stated in the country's laws."

The arrivals and departures from the country are controlled by a Directorate General for Migration and Migration Policies, a branch of the Government and Justice Secretariat, while the traffic of property is controlled by the Customs Directorate, under the Finance Secretariat.

Nevertheless, the Foreign Secretariat has been appointed to reject the entrance of this March for Peace in Central America, even though Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica admitted last week that his office had no jurisdiction in the matter.

The Foreign Secretariat issues permits to enter and leave the country, but anyone presenting the appropriate identification papers at any border post may obtain a special permit to remain in Honduran territory without a visa for 24 hours.

The different versions published concerning the march, both in Honduras and Nicaragua, have turned the movement into a controversial issue even for official spokesmen, who are frequently confused and contradict themselves.

The marchers are supposed to arrive at the Honduran border post of El Espino this week, where it will finally be determined if they may cross Honduras on their way to Mexico City or not.

ARMY OFFICER UNINJURED IN CAR BOMB EXPLOSION

PY222128 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0103 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Dec (NA) -- Reliable sources reported tonight that a high-ranking Army officer surnamed Gambino was unhurt in a grenade attack which totally destroyed his car. No additional information has been released on the officer's identity.

The attack, which was made known only tonight, occurred yesterday at about 0630, when the officer started his vehicle to go to Campo de Mayo, where he is stationed. The powerful explosion caused alarm throughout the General San Martin officers' housing area, located in the vicinity of Marquez Avenue and the Eighth Highway in San Martin District, where Gambino lives.

According to the sources, the grenade, which had been concealed in the car, had its pin tied to the car's drive shaft, so that it would go off when the vehicle started to move.

Even though the grenade exploded, Gambino saved himself "by opening the door on time." The sources gave no further details.

The attack has been investigated by personnel from the San Martin station of the Buenos Aires police. No one has thus far been reported arrested. The source consulted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS said that "it will be very hard to investigate the attack, because the perpetrators are undoubtedly highly trained and specialized people."

This is the first attack after the lifting of the state of siege, which the executive branch had imposed to counter what it described as "a campaign for disrupting public order."

CAPUTO SAYS COUNTRY WILL NOT DECLARE MORATORIUM

PY222027 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Dec 85 p 17

[Text] (NA-DYN) Foreign Minister Dante Caputo dismissed the possibility that Argentina may declare a moratorium on foreign debt payments, affirming such a decision would unleash "an internal earthquake." Added Caputo: "Nothing is more dangerous than giving up principles and convictions in foreign policy... Argentina must not open up sources of internal and external conflict, as would result from suspending debt payments."

Caputo also spoke of Argentina's role in the Contadora Support Group, emphasizing the importance of avoiding conflict in Central America since a war there would "extend throughout Latin America."

The minister told TIEMPO ARGENTINO "current foreign policy is pragmatic and realistic," whereas that carried out by the military government "led us to isolation."

With respect to the Cartagena Group of indebted Latin American nations, the minister said it is starting to "bear fruit," such as the developments around the Baker Plan.

Finally, the minister pointed to the Beagle Channel peace treaty signed with Chile as his greatest achievement in office.

DEFENSE MINISTER CARRANZA ARRIVES IN SPAIN

For Madrid coverage of the visit to Spain by Defense Minister Roque Carranza, including his talks with Spanish Defense Minister Narciso Serra, see the Spain section of the 20 December Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SAYAD SAID PRESSURED BY U.S. TO MAKE IMF DEAL

PY211703 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Dec 85 p 20

[Text] Brasilia -- Brazilian Planning Minister Joao Sayad yesterday revealed that during his trip to Washington he was pressured by U.S. authorities to reach an agreement with the IMF. Federal Reserve (U.S. Central Bank) Chairman Paul Volcker feels that an agreement with the IMF is very important for Brazil to renegotiate its foreign debts, Sayad stated.

Nevertheless, the Brazilian position is definite, the minister said. The government will only accept negotiation with the IMF provided that the IMF approves the package of economic measures suggested by the government and approved by the National Congress in November.

"Brazil is in a very comfortable position, both economically and politically. Therefore, the negotiations on our foreign debt can be conducted without IMF approval of our fiscal measures," Sayad stressed.

Sayad said that the chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State J. Whitehead can assess the strength of the package as far as curbing the public deficit is concerned.

SARNEY DENIES IMPOSITION OF 'LID ON SALARIES'

PY201344 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Speaking to 143 generals of the Armed Forces who gathered for a year-end luncheon at the Army Club, President Sarney, who is the first civilian president in 21 years to participate in this traditional gathering, told them: Your Supreme Commander has the historical notion of his mission.

He then added that Brazil cannot be a country where disparities go uncorrected, because a just society cannot coexist with measures that amount to putting a lid on salaries and condoning recession and financial speculation. Nor can it exist in the midst of corruption, bad administrative practices, [word indistinct], regional disparities, and exploitation of people in rural areas.

FINANCE MINISTER PROMISES NO WAGE PRICE FREEZE

PY201155 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Relay from Brasilia by reporter Carmencita Corso]

[Text] The Brazilian finance minister has stated that on no occasion did he propose the freezing of prices and salaries.

[Begin Funaro recording] The government is not considering the possibility of adopting any unorthodox shock policy. The fact that we have been talking to ministers who adopted this type of measure does not mean that Brazil will do likewise. As a matter of fact, I have been systematically saying that Brazil is not Argentina. The unorthodox Argentine plan is not applicable in the case of Brazil. I have been saying that to you all the time. This does not exclude our obligation to discuss it with society, to reach agreements, and to promote Brazilian growth. To maintain growth is not easy.

In order to be able to control inflation and promote growth we must discuss it with society and maintain it through an agreement with Brazilian society. [end recording]

Then the minister said how the government is going to control inflation:

[Begin Funaro recording] First, the government is putting all the government budgets in order. Second, it is adopting measures that will really [words indistinct] as a market regulator, which is the most important point in fighting inflation. A country without a supply system has no possibility of fighting the inflationary process. Third, we will be controlling prices through the Federal Institute of Prices (FIP), as we are doing now, particularly controlling monopolies and oligopolies. [end recording]

Minister Funaro added that the government is putting everything in order and that it is indispendable for workers and businessmen to know their limits for price or salary increases.

Discusses Deficit

PY201139 Brasilia Domestic Service Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Text] The Brazilian Government will not adopt "shock" measures to fight inflation. Reporter Joao Alexandre's interview contains more:

[Begin relay] Planning Minister Joao Sayad reported his trip to the United States to President Sarney. During the trip Sayad contacts U.S. economic authorities and World Bank officials. He told the economic authorities about the Brazilian Government's economic package, and obtained loans of $1.5 billion for this year and $2 billion for 1986. Sayed said these loans will be applied toward irrigation in the northeast, reorganization of the electric sector, and support for agricultural loans. The planning minister discarded the possibility of adopting "shock" measures to control inflation and spoke about the measures which might help diminish the problem:

[Begin Sayad recording, in progress] ... inflation depends, as I have said, both on the deficit and on the abrupt variation of prices, as for example in the case of poor crops. The problem of the deficit is basically being solved by the "reform program" approved by the National Congress. Now we must take the climate into consideration. The climate is upsetting our farmers, it is upsetting the government and its control over inflation. In other words, it is upsetting everybody. One way of solving this problem is to schedule a supply policy to prevent a rapid rise in the price of agricultural products. The government is totally involved in this effort. We want steady prices for agricultural items, prices that can grant a good crop for 1987 without penalizing consumers in 1986. [end recording]

On the possibility of freezing prices and salaries the minister said: [Begin Sayed recording] I think it was a misinterpretation of what was said. There is no reason to think about a policy....[Changes thought] our government is not considering the possibility of applying a heterodox or orthodox "shock" treatment. [end recording] [end relay]

SARNEY VIEWS CHARACTERISTICS OF FUTURE CABINET

PY211609 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The new cabinet of the New Republic will be a political one, exclusively made up of representatives from the Democratic Alliance.

This statement was made yesterday afternoon by President Jose Sarney during a visit to the journalists accredited to Planalto Palace.

The president also stated that the would-be cabinet members will have to blend honesty with efficiency and have team spirit so as to be able to work together. I am a politician, thus my choice will essentially be a political one, the president stated.

DEBT, BILATERAL TRADE DISCUSSED WITH ARGENTINA

PY191616 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Dec 85 p 30

[Excerpt] Montevideo -- Brazil and Argentina yesterday held talks in Montevideo, where the Cartagena Consensus group is meeting, to draw up a joint proposal aimed at hardening their negotiating positions on the foreign debt, and also to discuss the details of the Foz do Iguazu accord through which the two countries want to balance their trade so neither will ever have a surplus of more than $50 billion [figure as published].

Ambassador Thompson Flores, head of the Economic and Commercial Affairs Secretariat of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry and president for Brazil of the Brazilian-Argentine High-Level Commission, stated that the two countries are trying to launch a continental commercial drive. He added that Brazil is not interested in having a trade surplus.

According to Thompson Flores, regional trade must be strengthened so as to gradually reduce dependency on the North. He said that this year regional trade will total approximately $1 billion.

Jorge Romero, president of the commission for Argentina, and Thompson Flores did not rule out the possibility that Brazilian-made military materiel could be included in the trade package. Meanwhile, Romero emphasized that Argentina is greatly interested in exporting up to $400 million worth of natural gas and oil byproducts to Brazil within 3 years and to maintain this level ofenergy exports from the fourth year on.

NEW GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

PY211522 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Dec 85 p 6

[Text] Brasilia -- The Minister chief of the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA), Admiral Jose Maria do Amaral, 60, in an exclusive interview with FOLHA, reported on 17 Dec that the EMFA is developing a broad communication and control system, which will place under the command of the president of the Republic -- in case of war, calamity or disturbances -- the principal military units of the country, the state and municipal governments, and also the heads of the civil defense, military and government communications.

According to the minister, the first step for the implementation of this system was the signing, 2 weeks ago, of an agreement between the EMFA and the Brazilian Telecommunications Company (EMBRATEL), which will allow the system to use the 2,400 channels of "Brasilsat" (Brazilian satellite).

The "heart" of the system will be installed in 10 days on the fourth floor of the EMFA building on Ministries' Square, in Brasilia. It is a computer of medium size which, besides centralizing data and operations, will simulate situations. "With this computer we can examine solutions, evaluate all the variables and reach a conclusion about the best decision to make, with greater chances of being correct," said Minister Amaral, after stating that the computer will be used for the planning of Navy, Army, and Air Force joint maneuvers, and even for the testing of bombs and weapons that Brazil intends

to buy. "All we have to do is feed the computer the data on the equipment and create a situation similar to that in which the weapon would hypothetically be used," he said. According to Amaral, the price of this computer is $300,000 (about 3.3 billion cruzeiros), plus $100,000 for its implantation.

The technical name of the total system, which will permit the president of the Republic to send and receive information (voice, telex, and data) from the Planalto Palace, is C3-I, which means command, communications, control, intelligence.

At present, communication between the civilian and military strategic units is done in a rudimentary way. Telephone, radio, or systems that serve only one sector (only the Army, for example) are being used. With the C3-I, the entire country will be interconnected. The political decisions will be up to the president.

According to Amaral, 50 technicians of the Army, Navy, and Air Force research institutes of the Military Communications System (Siscomis), and the Center of Analysis of Naval Systems are working on the "concept" or programming of the C3-I. This concept, which will determine the details of the project, will be finished by May or June 1986. Its exact implementation date, however, still has not been set. "It will depend on two aspects: the appropriation of funds and technology. The satellite and the computer will bring us additional problems, which are completely new in Brazil," said the minister.

Meanwhile, the systems that will soon be integrated are being prepared separately: the Military Communications System by the EMFA, the governmental communications system, by EMBRATEL, the Civil Defense commands by the Interior Ministry, and the Military War Structure by the respective ministries and jointly through the EMFA.

SARNEY SIGNS DECREE ON BANKRUPT BANKS

PY202043 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1450 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] This is the end for unscrupulous bankers. President Jose Sarney is being complimented for the position he has adopted. The president signed a decree imposing monetary correction on all debts from all financial institutions that have been liquidated by the Central Bank in out of court settlements. The important feature of this decree is that it is retroactive.

The decree signed by Sarney is detrimental to the interests of bankrupt bankers who, after long negotiations, were entitled to refunds from the government, because while their assets were subject to monetary corrections, their liabilities were frozen.

NATIONAL ACCORD TEXT DELIVERED TO MINISTRY

PY202341 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Sergio Molina and Jose Luis Zabala, the coordinators of the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy, talked with Radio Chilena a few minutes after they delivered a copy of the National Accord to Alberto Cardemil, the under secretary of the Interior Ministry. They explained that the purpose of their visit to La Moneda Palace, which lasted only 10 minutes, was to meet with Alberto Cardemil and discuss the upcoming meeting between Cardinal Juan Francisco Fresno and President Pinochet. Sergio Molina said that after delivering a copy of the National Accord to Interior Under Secretary Alberto Cardemil, they emphasized to him their need to meet with Minister Ricardo Garcia.

[Begin Molina recording] Yesterday at approximately 1730 we received a letter from the interior minister saying that his busy schedule precluded meeting us, but that Under Secretary Alberto Cardemil would receive us at 1000 this morning. We arrived at 1000. The under secretary received us, and we delivered a copy of the original National Accord document. We explained that no disrespect was intended, but it was absolutely necessary to talk with the minister because we thought it would be impossible for him to properly convey to the minister our conversation with him. We asked Cardemil to tell the minister that we will expect an invitation to meet with Garcia. That was the substance of our conversation and the reason we went to meet with the under secretary. [end recording]

Sergio Molina added that they will now wait for an answer from Minister Ricardo Garcia. Regarding other possible meetings at the official level, he said that none will be held before a meeting with Minister Garcia.

Jose Luis Zabala pointed out that the upcoming meeting between Cardinal Juan Francisco Fresno and General Augusto Pinochet may be beneficial by the time the coordinators of the National Accord get to meet with Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia.

[Begin Zabala recording] Perhaps it is a good thing that the minister did not meet with us after all; today an announcement was made that the president is going to meet with Cardinal Fresno on 24 December. Perhaps our conversation with the minister will be more beneficial if it takes place after, rather than before, that meeting. [end recording]

Sergio Molina then added that the coordinators of the National Accord will continue to promote and explain the Accord's objectives to people throughout the country. He also said the commissions entrusted to carry out the goals set by the signatories of the Accord will continue their work.

- Government Rejects Accord

PY210259 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0208 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Santiago, 20 Dec (EFE) -- The government of General Augusto Pinochet today rejected the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy a few hours after it was officially delivered. The rejection was contained in a communique released this evening by the National Social Communications Division, Dinacos, from La Moneda Palace. Dinacos says this is the government answer to the document delivered this morning to Interior Under Secretary Alberto Cardemil by the National Accord coordinators, Sergio Molina and Jose Luis Zabala.

In the main paragraph the communique says that the government believes that "an action that lacks definition on basic issues and lacks coherence between words and facts cannot possibly be labeled as an accord and even less as national." General Pinochet's government bases its rejection of the Accord on the fact that there are "many disagreements and contradictions -- which are sometimes basic and profound -- among the signatories of the Accord."

The communique adds that these "disagreements and contradictions" not only affect the reasons and objectives sought by the Accord signatories but, "what is most serious," they affect their interpretation of the document, and cause frequently inconsistent positions and actions."

According to the government, the signatories of the Accord "have neither recognized nor committed themselves to respecting the 1980 Constitution," nor have they clearly outlined their positon regarding marxism and its legal exclusion from political activities." [end quotation mark as received]

The communique adds that the Accord does not guarantee "unrestricted respect of private property and related rights" and "has not rejected violence." This is reflected by the fact that most signatories of the Accord have endorsed "tactics and strategies" such as civil disobedience, social mobilization, peaceful protests, and active nonviolence. The communique adds that some signatories advocate institutional disruption, the ungovernability of the country, and popular insurrection.

The National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy was signed on 25 August 1985 by 11 political organizations of the right, center, and left, including groups close to the government and comprised of former government aides, such as the National Unity Movement [MUN] and the National Party. The objective of the agreement, proposed by Cardinal Archbishop of Santiago, Monsignor Juan Francisco Fresno, is to seek national reconciliation and democracy through a solution agreed upon by the government and the opposition.

Valdes Calls Pinochet 'Obstacle'

PY222204 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2016 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Santiago, 21 Dec (EFE) -- General Pinochet is driving the country to "a state of polarized conflict, which is the best ally of extremist and radical positions," Gabriel Valdes, president of the Christian Democratic Party, said to Radio Cooperativa today after the military government rejected the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy.

"We were sure that Gen Pinochet was not and is not willing to make any concessions, and that he is the main obstacle to a peaceful and civilized transiton from the total crisis into which he has driven the country," Valdes stressed. He added that "Gen Pinochet has made another mistake, perhaps the greatest and most serious mistake of his government. He must personally assume the responsibility for the consequences, because the people will mobilize to recover their freedom, their dignity, and their rights, at any expense or sacrifice," Valdes remarked.

The National Accord was signed on 25 August by 11 rightist, centrist, and leftist parties in search of national reconciliation and democracy through a solution negotiated by the government and the opposition.

Rightist Leader Reacts

PY211940 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1505 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Santiago, 21 Dec (EFE) -- Former Chilean right-wing senator Francisco Bulnes Sanfuentes has warned that the rejection of the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy by the military government exposes Chile "to a disaster."

Bulnes Sanfuentes, a member of the political commission of the National Union party and one of the most outspoken personalities of the traditional Chilean right, said that "the opposition stretched out its hands to reach agreement, but the government preferred to bite that hand. Those of us who do not side with the government or the opposition and have an independent stand on this matter have contributed to the occurrence of this event (extending a hand). Bulnes Sanfuentes added.

Bulnes Sanfuentes added that, by rejecting the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy, the governmental authorities "are doing nothing less than stimulating left-wing violence; if opponents do not see any possibilities for a democratic solution they will be prone to indulge in violence."

Bulnes said that the government communique released last night, shortly after the government officially received the text of National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy from the hands of coordinators designated by Santiago Archbishop Cardinal Juan Francisco Fresno, "means the rejection of any possibility of holding a dialogue with the democratic forces."

For his part, Christian Democratic President Gabriel Valdes has stated that "for those who believe that political life consists of simply obeying orders, democracy appears to be something inconceivable."

The National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy was signed in August by 11 centrist, rightist, and leftist organizations and was "positively assessed" by the marxists-leninists. Signed thanks to Cardinal Fresno's impetus and mediation, the National Accord aims at achieving a negotiated end to the current military regime.

ARCHBISHOP DECLINES SAYING MASS FOR PINOCHET

PY222059 Paris AFP in Spanish 2334 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Santiago, 21 Dec (AFP) -- The Archbishop of Santiago Monsignor Juan Francisco Fresno today reported that he has declined to say Christmas Eve Mass for President Augusto Pinochet and his closest assistants at La Moneda Government Palace.

An official report released Thursday said that the president invited the Santiago archbishop to say Christmas Eve Mass for the president, his wife, and some of his assistants at the La Moneda Palace Church. The report was released some hours after General Pinochet agreed to grant an audience to Cardinal Fresno on Tuesday.

However, during a religious service at the Santiago Cathedral this afternoon, Monsignor Fresno said he did not accept the invitation. It has been reported that I will say Mass at La Moneda on 24 December, but the archbishop will only say Mass at the cathedral on that day, Fresno remarked, while numerous people attending the service applauded his words.

PRESIDENT TO PARDON 'ABOUT 2,000' PRISONERS

PY201442 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Summary from poor reception] Justice Minister Hugo Rosende has announced after meeting with President Pinochet in La Moneda Palace that the president will pardon about 2,000 prisoners in an atmosphere of Christmas goodwill. He said: "The president has ordered the preparation of a bill to be sent to the [word indistinct] Government Junta to grant prisoners a pardon consisting in the reduction of sentences by 1 year." However, the minister explained that those who committed crimes such as "crimes against individuals, attacks against public security, particularly the terrorist crimes, as well as first degree murder" will not be pardoned. He said that "about 2,000 prisoners will be pardoned, of which 400 should be released soon, and 350 will be entitled to parole."

Asked if the pardon would be granted before Christmas Rosende answered that "this would be difficult" since the Junta must be informed about it, and "the bill will be sent on Monday." The president will sign the bill in a few hours.

HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVER CONCLUDES 11-DAY VISIT

PY201459 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Excerpts] UN special human rights observer for Chile Fernando Volio Jimenez said, shortly before leaving for Brazil after an 11-day official visit, that if all governments opened their doors to international human rights organizations as Chile did, this effort would proceed much better.

[Begin Volio recording] I once again thank the government for the chance it gave me to carry out my mission without any sort of restrictions. This has opened doors to me and facilitated my work, according to my orders. I have said before that I cannot comment yet on my report's contents because to do so would be irresponsible; I have gathered so much information that I must consider and analyze it. I must bear in mind that my report will form the basis for actions that can only be taken by the Chilean people themselves.

I am a voluntary spokesman of the international community, which upholds the highest values and objectives, such as support for the human rights cause. [end recording]

Volio Jimenez, who is Costa Rican, said that he will try to make his human rights report on Chile constructive. He said that the report, which will be presented to the United Nations next February, should receive fair treatment from those who read it, because it will constitute well-intentioned and responsible criticism. He added that he expects no praise for his work.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR APPOINTMENT APPROVED -- The government has approved the appointment of Luis Marchand Stens as the new Peruvian ambassador to Chile. Marchand is currently ambassador to the United States; he replaces Jose Luis Bustamante. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Dec 85 p C 3 PY]

NICARAGUAN INVOLVEMENT IN PALACE ATTACK RUMORED

Ramirez Refuses Comment

PA202010 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] There are all sorts of rumors regarding the involvement of Nicaraguans in the take-over of the Palace of Justice which claimed the lives of hundreds of people. Although officially no government official or Armed Forces officers has openly said it, it is felt that five of those who participated in the 5 November assault on the Palace of Justice were from Nicaragua. There are some pictures that corroborate their nationalities, and show that half the arms used in the attack came from Nicaragua. Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez declined to comment on the matter, and said that he will talk about it after meeting with President Belisario Betancur.

The foreign minister arrived from Montevideo accompanied by his Honduran counterpart Edgardo Paz Barnica, who again blamed Nicaragua for the Contadora Group's problems.

[Begin recording] [Paz] Contadora Group is the viable option that must be further strengthened in order to find a peaceful solution for the Central American conflict. The Contadora Group needs something....

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] How about the OAS?

[Paz] We must name the party responsible for all of the Contadora Group's problems and for boycotting Contadora, and that is the Nicaraguan Government. [end recording]

No Official Protest

PA202334 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1743 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Bogota, 20 Dec (EFE) -- The Nicaraguan ambassador in Colombia today affirmed that the Sandinist government has not received any protest note from the Colombian Foreign Ministry on charges that his country aided the guerrillas who occupied the Palace of Justice in Bogota.

Ambassador Francisco Quinones Reyes rejected the charges made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his secretary of state, George Shultz.

According to those charges, "there is proof" that the Sandinists aided the 19 April Movement (M-19) in the attack on the Colombian Supreme Court of Justice on 6 November, which left a toll of over 100 dead.

"Diplomatic channels have not been used so far, either for explanations or complaints about the incident," the Nicaraguan ambassador said.

The diplomat noted that "an investigation could be requested by the Colombian Government, if it is interested," but he gave little importance to the accusations made by Shultz on 2 December in Cartagena de Indias, during the OAS Assembly session.

The Colombian foreign minister, Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, gave assurances that his government is studying the charges, although he pointed out that "from the very beginning, we received an official condemnation of the assault from Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto."

In Bogota, several political leaders asked for an investigation of the accusations and, should the charges be confirmed, they recommended the suspension of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua. At the same time, the press has continued reporting the discovery of Nicaraguan weapons in the damaged Palace of Justice.

Paper Details FSLN Role

PA210045 Paris AFP in Spanish 1954 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Bogota, 20 Dec (AFP) -- According to a report published by the Bogota newspaper EL TIEMPO today, which quoted official sources, an FSLN commando unit participated in the M-19 [19 April Movement] occupation of the Palace of Justice in Bogota on 6 November.

In support of its story, the newspaper published several pictures supplied by Colombian state security agencies. The newspaper identified the Sandinists by the nicknames of "Lucho," "Fabio," "Profe," "Mono," and "Jaime," but indicated that these men had been described as "companeros" since they arrived in Colombia.

One hundred and fifteeen people, including guerrillas, civilians, and Supreme Court magistrates, were killed during the attack on the Palace of Justice in Bogota on 6 November, which ended the next day.

In its report the newspaper asserted: "The Sandinist commando unit arrived in Bogota 1 day prior to the attack on the Palace of Justice and organized and gave instructions to the M-19 guerrillas."

The newspaper also said: "These same guerrillas participated in the occupation of the parliament in Managua -- an incident which marked the beginning of the Nicaraguan revolution."

EL TIEMPO added: "At least two other foreign guerrillas were there because Venezuelan rifles that the government of Carlos Andres Perez gave to the Sandinist rebels were found at the site." [sentence as received]

EL TIEMPO recalled that U.S. forces seized these rifles from the communists in Vietnam and that they "were later delivered to the Sandinists as part of covert military aid during the Carter government."

The report said that, apparently, one of the Sandinists was Rafael Ernesto Cardenas. He and a Colombian female guerrilla handled communications with walkie-talkies from outside the Palace of Justice.

EL TIEMPO noted that the "exclusive" pictures that it published today, Friday, were found by the Army in a home in Bogota's southern sector, located very near the Narino Palace.

The newspaper also reported that other documents were found as well, such as codes and lists of frequencies "with which they communicated with Cuba and Nicaragua through a network that operated in a home in southern Bogota."

EL TIEMPO, which said it has obtained the pictures and the information from unidentified military sources, also said: "The entire operation at the Palace of Justice was handled exactly like the occupation of the Managua parliament."

The paper then asserted: "The weapons found at the Palace of Justice were M-16 and R-15 rifles of the Sandinist Army, as were the explosives found therein."

Envoy Recalled

PA220301 Paris AFP in Spanish 0131 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Bogota, 21 Dec 85 (AFP) -- The Colombian ambassador to Nicaragua, Abelardo Duarte Sotelo, arrived in Bogota this evening, recalled by the government to discuss the presumed Managua aid to the M-19 [April 19 Movement] guerrillas.

Duarte Sotelo refused to discuss the possibility of a break in relations between the two countries, but admitted that he "was recalled by Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez."

At the Bogota airport, the diplomat, scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Ramirez tomorrow, described Colombian-Nicaraguan relations as normal, and noted that "they are just like those Colombia has with all friendly nations."

Duarte Sotelo will be consulted on the veracity of the U.S. charges about the aid the Sandinist government has offered the M-19 guerrilla movement in recent months.

The charges refer to the supply of weapons for an attack on the Justice Palace in Bogota on 6 November, which left a toll of 115 dead and the possible participation of a Sandinist commando in that occupation.

Ambassador Duarte Sotelo excused himself to the reporters from discussing those matters without the authorization of the Foreign Ministry, and even denied having information about a mass offered in Managua for "the M-19 martyrs."

The magazine GUION of Bogota this week published some photos of the mass, which shows an M-19 banner. The mass, according to the photos, was attended by Interior Minister Tomas Borge.

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZURE, 4 ARRESTS -- Bogota, 19 Dec (EFE) -- The office of the director of the Police Department has announced in Bogota that in recent hours anti-narcotics agents seized 13 kg of cocaine and 6 tons of marijuana in two simultaneous operations in two different parts of the country, In Quindio Department, the authorities intercepted a vehicle transporting 13 kg of pure cocaine and arrested Jorge Ariel Saavedra, Hernan Moncaleano, Marlen Beltran de Benitex, and Hermes Moncaleano Barreto. In Santa Marta, in northern Colombia, the authorities seized 6 tons of marijuana, but arrested no one. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2323 GMT 19 Dec 85 PA]

MLN-T NOT RECEIVING AID FROM NICARAGUA

PY222338 Paris AFP in Spanish 1655 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Montevideo, 21 Dec (AFP) -- The former Uruguayan guerrillas of the Tupamaros National Liberation Movement(MLN-T) today denied they are receiving Nicaraguan support and dismissed statements that U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters, made in this regard this week.

During a press conference in New York early this week, Walters said the Sandinist government is assembling a vast international terrorist network and that for this purpose it is aiding the Tupamaros, the Argentine Montoneros, and the Chilean MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left].

Eleuterio Fernandez Huidobro, who is a member of the MLN-T executive board, today replied that what Walters said is not true and flatly denied that the MLN-T is receiving Nicaraguan aid. The former guerrilla's answer was released during the first legal national convention of the MLN-T. During the convention, which is being held at a downtown Montevideo theater and which will last 3 days, 1,521 Tupamaros will outline the organization's strategy, programs, and plans.

Fernandez Huidobro said the statements by Walters are aggressive, destabilizing, and provocative, and that Walters can confirm with the Uruguayan police that the Tupamaros are receiving no aid from Nicaragua.

The MLN-T convention began on Friday with a speech by Fernandez Huidobro and will end tomorrow at a stadium with the election of a 33-member central committee. MLN-T sources said that during the inaugural session, the provisional executive board that led the organization in 1985 -- made up of Fernandez Huidobro, Raul Sendic, Julio Marenales, and Jorge Manera -- handed over power to the assembly.

Before beginning the deliberations, which are being held in secrecy, the assembly heard a letter from Raul Sendic, who is the founder and ideologist of the MLN-T and who is in Cuba, where he has undergone medical treatment to recuperate from wounds he received early in the 1970's, when he was arrested by police.

The same sources said the convention is very likely to decide to work for the creation of a great anti-dictatorship front to prevent the possibility of another coup.

ITALY'S ANDREOTTI ARRIVES FOR 24-HOUR VISIT

PY230054 Paris AFP in Spanish 0006 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 22 Dec (AFP) -- Italian Foreign Minister Guilio Andreotti arrived tonight in Montevideo for a 24-hour visit, during which he will meet with Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti.

Andreotti arrived in Uruguay from Argentina, where he held talks on bilateral and international matters with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON DRUG TRAFFICKING PROBLEM

PA191746 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Excerpts[During a working tour in Sinaloa state yesterday, President Miguel de la Madrid admitted the need to finance producers, businessmen, and industrialists, but he added that he is convinced that, with their utilities and resources, some people can stop the outflow of capital.

As for drug trafficking, the president of the Republic said that it cannot be fought only with the Army and the police; this effort requires the conscientious and responsible support of all Mexicans. He added that we must admit that many fortunes in Sinaloa were built in complicity with drug trafficking.

At the end of his working tour, De la Madrid said that only dead societies are problem-free. Mexico, being a dynamic, complex, and diversified country, has and will continue to have problems. De la Madrid said that the world is experiencing an uncertain situation, but we should not mistake uncertainty for distrust, because Mexicans must never lose their trust in Mexico.

SENATE APPROVES LAW TO PREVENT, CENSURE TORTURE

PA190421 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Report by Judith Alamo]

[Text] With a unanimous vote of the 57 senators who were present, the Mexican Senate today approved a law to prevent and censure torture. Senator Gonzalo Martinez Corbala, who is president of the Human Rights Commission, which introduced the initiative, requested the Senate's approval. He said that institutionalized torture is a cowardly action that can be possible only in antidemocratic regimes. He stressed that Mexico will never fall into the path of repression and authoritarianism.

[Begin Martinez Corbala recording] We have prepared and presented this draft bill, under the conviction that in approving it the Senate will be making a significant contribution in its institutional role to consolidating the process of moral renovation initiated by the president of the Republic. [end recording]

In general terms, the draft bill was approved immediately, although it was preceded by a 2-hour debate. The law has seven articles, from the definition of torture as a crime to the punishment for those who indulge in it. The law also specifies that anyone found guilty of torture will be subject to current penal laws.

GUATEMALA'S CEREZO ARRIVES FOR VISIT, COMMENTS

PA222059 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Guatemalan President-elect Vinicio Cerezo arrived in Mexico City yesterday, following a delay of approximately 8 hours. Airplane F-27 arrived at the presidential hangar at 2215 from Colombia, carrying President-elect Vinicio Cerezo to this capital. He was welcomed by Dr Alfonso de Rosenzweig-Diaz, deputy foreign secretary of Mexico.

Upon his arrival, the president-elect of Guatemala gave an interview:

[Begin recording] [Reporter Gloria Espinosa] Mr President, what topics will you discuss with President De la Madrid?

[Cerezo] This is basically a good-will tour. We are trying to state and emphasize the next Guatemalan Government's good intentions to strengthen and improve our relations with Mexico. However, we will undoubtably talk about and discuss the topics of interest in the region, meaning Contadora, the need for peace, political agreements in Central America, and, of course, certain basic topics, such as commercial and economic relations between Guatemala and Mexico. [end recording]

President-elect Cerezo also talked about Contadora.

[Begin recording] [Cerezo] We think it is fundamental to maintain the Contadora Group's option for Central America because this is the only instrument at hand right now to find a negotiated and political solution, and thus prevent any type of clash or confrontation.

[Espionza] Sir, what could tell us about the Guatemalan refugees?

[Cerezo] Well, this is an extremely grave problem. We must solve it as quickly as possible. We must really talk with the Mexican Government and create the necessary conditions so that they may return. This will naturally take some months, following my inauguration, but we will have some help from various international organizations such as the Red Cross and the United Nations to create the necessary conditions. [end recording]

Referring to his political goals, the president-elect of Guatemala said:

[Begin Cerezo recording] We have two basic guidelines concerning Guatemala, and they are fundamental: first, an economic emergency plan to counter the foreign debt problem and the country's economic reactivation; second, the reorganization of the security corps, which is necessary to create a legal state that allows us to ensure peace and the institutionalization of democracy. [end recording]

President-elect Cerezo will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid at 1030 today.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SEPULVEDA'S ARGENTINA VISIT

FL202102 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0235 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Mexico City , 19 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Foreign Ministry has reported that Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda's visit to Argentina is an indication of the two governments' desire to broaden political and cooperation talks between the two countries.

In a pres communique, the secretariat listed several examples illustrating the high degree of agreement in regional and world affairs between Mexico and Argentina. Regarding the world economic crisis, both countries agree that lenders, debtors, and international financial institutions should share responsibilities. The communique adds that, otherwise, the political and social consequences of the debt crisis will continue to be ignored and this will bring about serious risks to world stability. It adds that the economic crisis increases tensions, thus threatening peaceand security in the region.

Central America is faced with increased political and economic unbalance. Latin America has encouraged diplomatic negotiation as the only way to solve conflicts.

Elsewhere, the communique refers to Argentina's support for the Contadora Group and indicates that although this group does not represent the political will of the Central American countries, it will continue to seek political understanding. It indicates that the break in negotiations and the delay in signing a regional peace and cooperation accord are great risks and that the creation of a political vacuum could accelerate the forces of destabilization and of those who prefer military solutions.

During an official visit to Buenos Aires, Sepulveda reiterated the Mexican Government's gratitude for the aid given after last September's earthquake. He underscored President Raul Alfonsin's generosity for donating the Prince of Asturias prize to the Mexican reconstruction fund.

SILVA HERZOG: FOREIGN POLICY NOT INFLUENCED BY U.S. AID

FL202144 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Washington, 19 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog refuted reports that Mexico will change its foreign policy for financial assistance from the United States.

During a reception held by Inter-American Development Bank Director Antonio Ortiz Mena for the Mexican Embassy in Washington D.C., Silva Herzog told Mexican journalists that foreign policy and U.S. financial assistance are not related. The possibility of obtaining foreign resources is linked to both the measures taken years ago and Mexico's economic activity.

Silva Herzog said Mexico has problems and that there is a cloud on its horizon because of a decrease in oil prices. We need to be prepared to resolve these problems and do whatever possible to come out ahead, he said.

INVESTMENT NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED WITH FRANCE

FL200420 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0040 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Paris, 19 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Commerce and Industrial Development Secretary Hector Hernandez Cervantes said today the Mexican Government is concerned about a possible decrease in French oil purchases. Upon today's conclusion of the second joint Mexican-French meeting, the official said there is concern because a decrease in oil sales at this time would be drastic for Mexico. This would not only affect Mexico's importing capability but also its ability to meet its financial obligations and debts, said Hernandez Cervantes.

The secretary also said Mexico has adopted an active and selective policy in promoting foreign investment without having to modify its legislation. He said direct French investment in Mexico has increased, gradually reaching $237 million in 1984. France has direct investments of approximately 2 percent in Mexico. In 1984, investments increased to $12,899,000,000.

The joint commission's final document warns that to maintain debt payments, Mexico needs to grow and this requires that its products have major access to international markets, above all to industrialized countries.

The document covers economic, trade, and financial exchange as well as intergovernmental, scientific, and technical cooperation.

French Foreign Trade Minister Edith Cresson said France agrees with Mexico's demand for a round of global negotiations that would examine Mexico's financial, monetary, and trade problems. Nevertheless, she clarified that France demands these negotiations be held within each organism representing each area. Mexico has requested that the problems be dealt with in the United Nations.

MEXICAN ARMY REPORTS ON ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN

PA190019 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] The Mexican Army has destroyed 80 percent of the drug plantations in the Republic in collaboration with the public prosecutor's office. National Defense Secretary Gen Juan Arevalo Gardoqui has asserted this and stated that campaigns against drug trafficking were strengthened during this administration, according to President Miguel de la Madrid's instructions. He added that 26,365 members of the Mexican Army are currently participating in the various campaigns, and they are permanently patrolling the areas where drugs are generally grown.

In addition, 218,423 poppy plants and 118,790 marijuana plants have been destroyed. Consequently, he said, they have prevented the production of 199,700 kg of heroin, which could have intoxicated 79,880,000 persons in 1 week. Referring to marijuana, they prevented the production of 1,885,214,285 14-gram cigarettes which would have intoxicated 269,316,326 persons in 1 week. [end recording]

PEMEX DIRECTOR ON RECORD TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

FL191605 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0333 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 18 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- PEMEX Director Mario Ramon Beteta has reported that PEMEX had never paid as much taxes as it does now. This year, PEMEX will pay the federal government 2.7 trillion [currency not specified] and an additional billion through third parties.

At a meeting with the Senate's energy commission, Beteta said PEMEX pays the government almost half the total amount the federal government collects in taxes. He added that in 1986, the company will pay 5.4 trillion pesos in direct taxes and 2 additional trillion through third parties amounting to 7.4 trillion.

He also indicated that PEMEX capital reserves will amount to 2.7 trillion pesos at the end of 1985, which contrasts with the accumulated amount from 1938 to 1982 of only 160 billion pesos.

Likewise, Alberto Bremauntz Monge, industrial processing deputy director, reported that presently PEMEX has a refining capacity of 1.350 million barrels of crude per day and indicated that a record 1.267 million barrels per day are being processed this month.

He added that domestic demand for oil by-products did not increase and this allowed the export of about 100,000 to 150,000 barrels a day of refined oil surplus with an additional profit of $1 billion a year.

DELVALLE, MONGE MEET, HAIL PEACEFUL RELATIONS

PA201436 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge noted today in David that the Costa Rican-Panamanian border does not separate us but, on the contrary, unites us. Monge attended the opening of the Costa Rica-Panama cross-country cycling event with the Panamanian head of state.

[Begin Monge recording] As I said last night in my speech, there is a border. However, this border does not separate us, but unites us. Rather, the common hopes of the Panamanian and Costa Rican peoples converge at that border.

Our cordial and fraternal relations become deeper and stronger each time we speak with Panamanian leaders. We have common, bilateral problems, but there are also the problems of Central America -- which are unfortunately long lasting. However, Panama and Costa Rica discuss all of these matters in an atmosphere of great cordiality. [Eric Arturo] Delvalle spoke about the peace shared by Panama and Costa Rica in a region that is as troubled as Central America. Let us listen to what he said:

[Begin Delvalle recording] I hail the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between Panama and Costa Rica, which are based on long-lasting historic and human ties and our geographic proximity, as well as on the common will of our peoples and governments to always implement, actively and energetically, projects and actions aimed at strengthening these relations, such as this meeting of presidents and this sports event.

This is a fitting occasion to speak abot a treasure that Panama and Costa Rica share and would like to share with all of the fraternal peoples of Central America: peace. [end recording]

Discuss Regional Problems

PA211700 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 19 Dec 85 pp 24, 6

[By special correspondent Reynaldo Labastide]

[Text] David, Chiriqui -- The foreign debt, drug trafficking, terrorism, the support to the Contadora Group, and the reduction of weapons, among other things, made up the working agenda prepared for the Latin American summit meeting in Panama, the President of the Republic, Eric Arturo Delvalle, announced in this city today.

After participating jointly with his Costa Rican colleague, Luis Alberto Monge, at the official start of the 21st Panama-Costa Rica cross-country bicycle race, President Delvalle noted that the meeting of the Latin American chiefs of state could take place the middle of next year. He said efforts are being made for a prior meeting of economy and planning ministers of the different nations attending the conclave.

Pointing out that his policy for 1986 is directed toward promoting exports, industrial development, and agricultural and livestock activity, he noted that he did not agree with part of the new Baker Plan proposal concerning the debtor countries.

"In fact, I fail to see any advantage in the so-called proposal, because it continues to be a difficult condition for the debtor countries; therefore, we do not consider the proposal convenient to the Latin American nations," he remarked.

He said there will always be alternatives to the foreign debt problem, considering the best one as looking at it along with the present order of financing and the different economies.

President Monge, in turn, referred to the existence of a certain freeze in the actions of the Contadora Group, due mainly to Nicaragua's position. The Costa Rican chief of state, referring to the meeting with President Delvalle here in David, said that "it is not a border that awaits us, but one that joins us and merges the common hopes of our peoples." The Costa Rican chief of state, referring to the meeting with President Delvalle here in David, said that "it is not a border that awaits us, but one that joins us and merges the common hopes of our peoples." Every time we talk with the rulers of Panama, our cordial, fraternal, and peace-loving bonds strengthen and expand," he noted.

President Monge affirmed that there are common and bilateral problems which extend excessively in Central America, but that countries like Panama and Costa Rica discuss them in a climate of cordiality. Last night both chiefs of state met at the residence of Panamanian Foreign Minister Dr Jorge Abadia, and broached issues of utmost interest for both nations, such as the meeting of the Latin American nations, among others. The meeting was also attended by ministers of state, deputies, and legislators from the two friendly nations.

After the meeting, the presidents attended an event at Cervantes Park, where both leaders voiced their interest and wish for peace in both countries, the Central American region, and the world.

The two chief executives agreed that the celebration of the bicycle race was a worthy example of the fraternity between sister nations. The events at Cervantes Park were attended by the honorary president and sponsor, legislator Camilo Gozaine, who underlined the significance of the event, indicating that despite being a sports activity, it is a symbol of fraternity of two peoples identified by their historic roots.

SPADAFORA INVESTIGATION 'PRACTICALLY CLOSED'

PA201340 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0131 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Panama City, 19 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Attorney General Jose Manuel Calvo today announced that the investigation into the death of Panamanian guerrilla and politician Hugo Spadafora "is practically closed."

Three months after the decapitation of the former Panamanian health minister, there are no clues that can effectively lead to the discovery of the authors of this crime, which has horrified the Panamanian population. "We have reached a point where it is impossible to continue with the investigation," Calvo said this afternoon at a news conference.

According to Calvo, "It has not been confirmed if Hugo Spadafora was murdered in Panama, nor has it been determined through the investigation if there were any military men or civilians" involved in the murder.

Hugo Spadafora's body was discovered in Costa Rican territory close to the Panamanian border. However, several witnesses said they saw him cross the border on 14 September, the day before his murder.

The Spadafora family began publicly accusing the Defense Forces of Panama of the murder from the moment the body was identified. The reason is that Hugo Spadafora had had confrontations with the Panamanian high command.

Only two people, both of them state officials, have been formally interrogated in this case, and both were released for lack of evidence against them.

Omar Vega Miranda, local director of the National Department of Investigation (DENI) office in the border city of Concepcion, and Humberto Chavarria, a Defense Forces sergeant in the same city, were the last people to see Hugo Spadafora alive, according to the investigations.

State attorney office authorities went to the border region and to Costa Rica to investigate the case. They obtained statements from 30 members of the Defense Forces, immigration officials, businessmen, and drivers of the region.

The state attorney said that now he has to deliver a summary of the case, which consists of more than 400 pages, to the judicial branch, which will determine whether or not the investigations should be continued. Once the case is closed, Calvo noted, it can be reopened only by the state attorney's office.

Ths Spadafora family has been demanding the creation of a special commission made up of attorneys not belonging to the state attorney's office to carry out a "truthful and objective" investigation. From the beginning, the Spadafora family and some opposition sectors have been demanding, through demonstrations, that the people responsible for the crime be punished.

Jose Manuel Calva said at a news conference that in the Hugo Spadafora crime case there has been both "a political trial and a serious investigation. We carried out the investigation," he added, "and history will establish that we are a more truthful source."

DEFENSE FORCES ISSUE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

PA210029 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 16 Dec 85 pp 1, 24

[Statement issued by the Defense Forces on 16 December in Panama City]

[Text] In our country 16 December is commemorated as Defense Forces Day to acknowledge the determination and unconditional loyalty demonstrated on that historic date [16 December 1969] when the officers and the rank and file of the National Guard backed Commander in Chief General Omar Torrijos Herrera to promote the struggle of the October Revolution.

In the calendar of the Panamanian people, 16 December reminds unpatriotic and dissenting voices that they have never found support among the uniformed people, who have dignity, a conscience, are loyal, love peace, and are searching for national development.

Day after day the Defense Forces of Panama assume new and greater responsibilities for the benefit of the fatherland. We have to play an important professional role in the community which expects from us efficiency, results, and guarantees of peaceful coexistence. These noble demands of the citizens require that the Defense Forces have a scientific organization program and that they promote professionalism and technology among the military cadres so that they can respond to the people's mandate.

This obligation to deal with the needs that emerge as the country evolves and develops led Commander in Chief Manuel Antonio Noriega to declare 1985 as the Year of Self-Sufficiency and Technology in the Defense Forces. For this reason we have worked to promote the awareness of our high-and medium-level cadres as well as of our rank and file members about the task that we must fulfill.

Instead of being passive or unproductive in the barracks, we have maintained a line of continuous hard work, of permarent work to improve the professional and technical quality of our men, to keep the institution up to date about national and international events.

In order to fulfill the goals of self-sufficiency and technology, in 1985 the Defense Forces members, at all levels, took courses, carried out Civil Action missions, implemented a just promotions program, and created new battalions, which in compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and the national expectations, will guarantee the national integrity and joint defense of the canal over which Panama must assume complete control in the year 2000.

On commemorating the Defense Forces Day today, we can present a positive balance of achievements and actions carried out by the General Command and the lowest-ranking recruit or most inexperienced orderly alike.

The path that we have trodden has not been an easy one. Our institution has been the object of violent attacks provoked by the mean passions of those who put their own interests before those of the community. These attacks, however, have met with an unmovable wall represented by the unity in our institution. For this defence against the enemies of peace, we can rely on the support of conscious, responsible, and hard-working citizens who form the majority of the population.

Essentially, our doctrine is nationalist. For this reason, we cannot and will not accept ideological guidelines from any latitude in the hemisphere. Nor will we seek any alignment alien to our true orgin.

On this new anniversary of the Defense Forces, we will renew our efforts to remain on the road of dignity, a road that the courageous soldiers of all the previous generations marked for us on a day like this.

Finally, in this time of modernization and technical and professional advances, we recall the commanders, chiefs, officers, and troops who planted the seeds that are germinating today by structuring these new Defense Forces, which constitute a special model in America.

Before the memory of General Omar Torrijos Herrera, military architect of this generation, we reassert his pledge never to separate the Armed Forces from their primary source of power, the Panamanian people, represented by workers, peasants, students, businessmen, and professionals at large, who constitute our homeland's greatest wealth.

Let this day be an opportune moment to enforce the principles of our moral forces underscored, in response to treason, by our Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega on 16 December 1969 with the phrase "Loyalty without price or doubts." All for the homeland....

Panama City, 16 December 1985

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ FORESEES NO NEW TALKS WITH NICARAGUA

PA201709 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Foreign Relations Minister Carlos Jose Guiterrez has asserted that no negotiation or discussion of any kind will be held with the Nicaraguan regime, because that step would be regarded as politically motivated. Any negotiations, therefore, will be held after the elections. I do not think that there will be any more objectivity [words indistinct] peace agreement with Nicaragua after the elections, because apparently this is not the right time to hold any discussions with them, he added.

I believe that the topic must not be raised until a degree of objectivity can be achieved because the current atmosphere is fraught with emotions and electoral interests, Gutierrez said. Reiterating that relations with Nicaragua have been frozen for quite some time, Gutierrez stated that this is not the right time to discuss anything with the Managua regime. The foreign minister added that conditions to hold such a dialogue may or may not exist after the elections.

I must confess that I cannot make any predictions about what may happen with Nicaragua, but, I repeat, this is not the right moment to negotiate with our northern neighbors. The truth is that I cannot foresee anything with regard to Costa Rican-Nicaraguan relations the foreign minister stressed.

EL SALVADOR

FDR-FMLN COMMUNIQUE ON CHURCH TRUCE PROPOSAL

PA230135 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Communique issued by the FDR Executive Committee and FMLN General Command on 22 December 1985]

[Text] 1. On 13 December the FDR-FMLN announced their determination to observe a truce on 24, 25, 26, and 31 December and 1 and 2 January.

2. In the following days the Catholic Church, through its archbishop, asked us to extend the truce to include 27, 28, 29, and 30 December. Based on this, a truce that would extend from 24 December to 2 January would be requested from the government and Armed Forces. The archbishop presented his proposal in today's homily, a proposal that includes suspension of belligerent actions from 24 December to 2 January inclusive. This would involve the suspension of offensive patrols, military operations, and bombings by the Armed Forces. For its part, the FMLN would suspend all kinds of offensive actions, such as sabotage, occupation of highways, and attacks against Armed Forces' positions.

3. Based on this, the FDR-FMLN expressed to the archbishop their willingness to honor the request, provided both parties accept, because we believe that such an extended truce can be implemented only by mutual agreement. In addition, we authorized the archbishop to announce our acceptance publicly. Considering this, the FDR-FMLN declares:

A. Our fronts are still determined to honor the original 6-day truce.

B. The FDR-FMLN reiterate their determination to fulfill the 10-day truce requested by the church, provided the government and Armed Forces accept the terms proposed by the archbishop.

Sunday, 22 December 1985

[Signed] FDR Executive Committee, FMLN General Command

VENCEREMOS SCORES BLANDON REJECTION OF TRUCE

PA212144 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Station commentary: "The Government and Armed Forces in Response to the Christmas Truce"]

[Text] Taking our peoples' religious traditions into account, the FMLN and the FDR agreed to a unilateral truce during the Christmas and New Year's festivities. This is not the first time our fronts have adopted this initiative. It is enough to recall last year's Christmas truce or the truces during the children's vaccine program during the early months of this year. General Dolfo Blandon's reaction in response to the unilateral truce agreement by our fronts was really spectacular. He said that only the Armed Forces could declare a truce, because it is the only force that can exert authority. Very well, but what does Blandon believe? If there is a truce it is because there are two sides in conflict. Could it be that Gen Blandon believes that the air or rain attacked the CEMFA [Armed Forces Military Training Center], or (?Bella Coloral de Azapa), or inflicted thousands of casualties on the Army in the present year during the disastrous patrols of our fronts?

We repeat this, although it may be elementary: If there is a truce it is because there are two armies, two bands, two powers in conflict. Although this may be elementary, it had to be a militaryman who failed to understand the issue, which is so simply logical. However, beyond the angry and unreasonable statements by Blandon, after a very difficult year for the government Army officers and troops, they need a truce. Is it not a need for a truce that was behind Napoleon Duarte's words of acceptance? We can imagine the thousands of requests for leave made by officers and troops at this time of year. This is understandable. The Army needs the truce, even if Blandon says that they will carry out patrols and operations to prevent FMLN actions.

The FMLN has no problem whatsoever in carrying out military operations of greater or lesser scope during this time of year. Let us recall the attacks by the El Paraiso Brigade, the attack on the Cuscatlan bridge, the sabotage on the Santa Ana cement factory, and others. Just as we have no problem in carrying out military operations at this time of year, we have no problem in offering a truce, however, the Army, or rather the generals and colonels, are stubbornly resisting an obvious reality. In our country there are two armies, two powers in conflict. In other words, there is a duality of power, although this is not understandable to the hollow-headed Blandon.

There is a duality of power for very simple and obvious reasons. There are two armies in conflict that exert authority in their respective territorial domains. The puppet High Command itself has referred to the fact that of a given number of municipalities it controls so many, that they control this or that percentage of the territory. These and other similar statements clearly establish the FMLN's territorial domain. There is a duality of power. The Ayagualo and La Palma meetings, the exchange of war prisoners, the very intensity of the conflict make this obvious to the entire world.

However, the generals and the government are not aware of this or do not want to be aware of it. Only the generals and the government suffer and protest against this clear reality. In El Salvador there are two powers. The Army is facing a serious problem. On the one hand it must recognize the duality of power and on the other the need to give officers and troops a rest. For the latter it must agree on a truce with the other army. It is that simple. This is a reality they must accept. If the government and the Army can agree on a truce with the other side in conflict, that is with the FMLN-FDR, why not participate, then, in pulbic forums so that both sides can sit down and talk and fight also through words? If a truce is agreed upon between the two sides, there could very well be a dialogue. If there is a dialogue where we can discuss the duality of power and the two armies, we could arrive at negotiations for a just solution.

Blandon growled like a gorilla in response to the truce, but he needs it. The government and the Army had the same tantrums in response to the dialogue and negotiation, but we are certain that they will accept the dialogue and negotiations. It is only a matter of time.

FMLN REJECTS ABRAMS' CHARGES, TERMS HIM 'ASS'

PA201818 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Here is another hot report. This is intended for the United States. It is entitled: The Ass That Was Missing From the Picture. Do you remember when Paul Gorman, the former commander of the Southern Command, headquartered in Panama, appeared in a picture published by LA PRENSA GRAFICA in 1983 showing a photograph of four donkeys as evidence that the FMLN was receiving logistical aid from abroad? Well, in that picture there were not four donkeys, there were five. However, there should have been six. We have found out who was the fifth donkey and who was the ass missing from that picture.

It happens that recently in Honduras there was an accident in which two occupants of a vehicle died. The Honduran authorities who went to search the vehicle claimed that they had found rounds for M-16 rifles, 80 electrically-activated explosives, 9 or 10 communications radios, and $27,000. On Thursday, the brand-new assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, Elliott Abrams, told the U.S. news media that the material found in the car involved in the accident in Honduras proves that Nicaragua maintains the subversion in El Salvador.

Abrams also said that in the car the authorities found a letter written in Russian and that this shows that FMLN fighters are trained in the Soviet Union. Abrams' news conference was a homage to absurdity, cynicism, and stupidity. Abrams also said that the authorities found $27,000, money with which Nicaragua maintains the guerrillas in El Salvador. There is no doubt that Abrams has a cruller for a brain and that when he is hungry he swallows it and ends up having nothing. How can Abrams explain a war of the extent of the Salvadoran conflict on the basis of logistics of 80 explosives and $27,000?

Isn't Abrams ashamed of making so much ado about 80 explosives and 19 communications radios when they, the North Americans, have delivered millions worth of arms in NATO boxes to the Somozist mercenaries, as well as $27 million? In spite of all that, the Somozists are getting the beating of the century.

Only an imbecile can think of showing a letter written in Russian and claiming that this is evidence that the Soviet Union is training FMLN fighters.

In any event, Abrams should be ashamed of the fact that the puppet Army -- which has almost 80,000 men, helicopters, airplanes, Yankee advisers, and millions in military aid -- is losing the war to a force that receives as logistical support 80 electrically-activated explosives.

This sounds very much like the story of Paul Gorman with the picture of the four donkeys and his claim that this was evidence that the FMLN was receiving many arms from abroad. In chat picture there were not four donkeys, there were five. The fifth ass was Paul Gorman, and the ass missing from that picture was -- we have discovered -- Elliott Abrams.

ARMY REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE AVALOS' RELEASE

PA211718 Paris AFP in Spanish 1610 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 21 Dec (AFP) -- The Salvadoran Army will not negotiate an exchange of political prisoners with the guerrillas to gain the release of Colonel Napoleon Avalos, director of Civil Aeronautics, General Adolfo Blandon, chief of the Armed Forces joint General Staff, has announced today. "Reports regarding imaginary exchange efforts are completely false," the militaryman said in statements to the local press, pointing out that "neither the Armed Forces nor the government have received proposals on Avalos' case." Avalos has been held by the rebels since 26 October.

Yesterday FMLN guerrillas issued a communique denying government accusations regarding violations of human rights with the kidnapping of Avalos, 45 years old. "Avalos' capture is an act of legitimate popular justice," the clandestine Radio Venceremos reported, warning that all who are involved with the present Christian Democratic government "sooner or later will have to answer for the whereabouts of more than 6,000 missing persons."

Although the FMLN named approximately 80 Salvadorans captured by the Army within the past 6 years and who are said to be missing by official sources, it did not state any conditions for Col Avalos' release.

DEFENSE MINISTER NOTES 1985 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PA210403 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Report by Carlos Armando Rivera]

[Text] Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova has stated that the Salvadoran military forces substantially increased their numbers in 1985 and that military equipment was updated with weapons from the United States.

[Begin Vides Casanova recording] The Armed Forces progressed a great deal in various fields in 1985. We are especially proud of the progress made with regard to the professionalism of the Armed Forces. We have worked hard in the various training schools. We have increased the number of people who have taken courses and have graduated more warrant officers who go on to serve in the military garrisons.

Another important accomplishment is the combat readiness of the Armed Forces. The troops have staged combined air, land, and sea operations that have increased our reaction capacity both in combat effectiveness and in the speed of deployment of troops sent as reinforcements. We have also substantially increased the number of troops. This strengthens our capacity to fulfill our constitutional duty. This increase includes the Armed Forces and security forces. We have equipped all our units -- in the Armed Forces, but not in the security forces -- with modern weapons and the equipment necessary to improve our performance. Specifically, all our troops have been equipped with M-16 rifles. We now possess support weaponry, including mortars, rocket launchers, grenade launchers, and front-wheel-drive vehicles. We have also updated all of the armment of our artillery units. With regard to cavalry, we are building our own armoured vehicles. This will make highway patrols more effective. Our Navy has also made important progress. It now has more boats to patrol our coasts. We have also created and trained a marine infantry battalion which has been on duty for several months now. This will make us more effective with respect to controlling the supplies that the guerrilla groups receive from abroad.

The Army's operational capacity in combination with the other brances of service, particularly the Air Force -- which plays a key role in this struggle -- has proven its effectiveness throughout the country to the extent that the rebels have been compelled to change their strategy, breaking their units up into small groups to prevent being a target of the Air Force's actions. Another fundamental aspect of our work is that the Armed Forces work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Morale is very high. The chiefs, officers, soldiers, and security forces' members are more than willing to continue this struggle until we accomplish -- in a short time -- the pacification of our country. The Armed Forces is important because it supports the government's efforts to reconstruct our country.

The military accomplishments are there for all to see. However, there are other aspects that have been fundamental in 1985. The Armed Forces has respected the democratic process and its results and has supported the government in times of crisis. It has proven that it identifies with the people and that it appreciates the support the people have afforded it. The people will continue to support us so long as we do not let them down by intervening in the results of the election.

Another important accomplishment is that the members of the Armed Forces are very much aware of their obligations with regard to human rights, despite the many hardships of the conflict we are waging. We issued guidelines for the behavior of Armed Forces personnel, and all the forces have responded well to those guidelines. The Armed Forces had a good year in 1985 from the military standpoint and with regard to respecting the democratic process and human rights. [end recording]

FMLN EXPLAINS DIALOGUE PROPOSAL, PART 13

PA201732 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Special feature: "What Is the FMLN's Dialogue Proposal?"--Part 13]

[Text] Thirteenth principle: We are prepared to accept controls to eliminate logistical supplies if the Army also stops receiving supplies of weapons and war materiel from the United States, although basically those supplies to the FMLN are nonexistent and, at any rate, there is no comparison between the logistical supplies the FMLN allegedly receives and the regime's supplies.

The U.S. Government is alleging that it is forced to lend aid to Duarte to counter the logistical aid the FMLN receives from abroad. In fact, the Duarte regime and the imperialists account for the development of the people's struggle on the existence of that aid.

Considering those alleged arguments, which our people's enemies tirelessly repeat, the FMLN cannot remain silent. First of all, we believe that our right to arm ourselves in nonnegotiable. Let us keep in mind that the FMLN and the Salvadoran people must face the challenge of Yankee intervention, which is supplying countless tons of arms to the Duarte dictatorship. There can be no comparison between the amount of supplies the FMLN receives from abroad and the supplies the government receives. The Salvadoran Government has every resource to finance and bring in all the war materiel it needs for the counterinsurgency war.

The FMLN is leading a struggling movement surrounded by countries with hostile governments which support the imperialists' policies. Let us keep in mind that El Salvador has no border with Cuba or Nicaragua, but with Guatemala and Honduras, where the current dictatorships are allies of the Christian Democratic dictatorship.

It is ludicrous to charge that we can count on substantial logistical supplies from abroad, disregarding the fact that the imperialists patrol our fatherland's air and sea. U.S. aircraft patrol Salvadoran skies 24 hours a day with the help of powerful radar. How can it be, then, that the FMLN can count on such foreign aid? The truth is that the FMLN has built a mighty revolutionary army by seizing the puppet Army's materiel. Our rifles and materiel, our machineguns and mortars are not made in the Soviet Union, they are made in the United States. We have seized this war materiel on the battlefields. Moreover, corruption and greed among the puppet Army officers open for us additional markets to obtain weapons.

If the Duarte regime and the imperialists want the FMLN to give up obtaining weapons from abroad we would accept that, if the government also gives up U.S. aid. To be sure, the Duarte regime is not prepared to do that, because the aid from Reagan represents a matter of life and death for the puppet Army.

HONDURAS

AZCONA RETURNS FROM VENEZUELA, MEETS PRESS

PA202321 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2147 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Interview with President-elect Jose Azcona del Hoyo by unidentified reporters at the Ramon Villeda Morales International Airport in San Pedro Sula -- live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Question] ...about the fact that the country would be armed due to the problem with Nicaragua?

[Azcona] No, this was a misinterpretation. The next day the journalists....[changes thought] This was published in the newspaper EL NACIONAL, which is the media used by the extreme left in Venezuela, and that was not exactly what we said. We spoke quite clearly, and there was no need to refute their report. We clearly stated the next day that Honduras does not want to engage in a war with Nicaragua, but we do want, we hope, that the Nicaraguan Government achieves internal democracy in the country so that the Nicaraguan problem may be solved politically.

[Question] Have you prepared the list of your cabinet members?

[Azcona] No, not yet.

[Question] When will you reveal it? Well, we will try to get Azcona del Hoyo's answer. He is now greeting a group of friends here at the Ramon Villeda Morales International Airport. He was asked about his cabinet list but he didn't answer; he said only he has not thought about this. It would be appropriate.... [changes thought] We will wait and see if he talks about his cabinet list. Let's see if these people give us the opportunity to talk with him again. Please let us through. Engineer, when will you have the cabinet list ready?

[Azcona] I think that it will be ready soon. [sentence indistinct]

[Question] Do you have a preliminary list?

[Azcona] We do, but we will abstain from revealing the names because it is inconvenient.

[Question] Why is it inconvenient?

[Azcona] Because we must finish comprising the entire cabinet before it is revealed as a whole.

[Question] Do you trust that the National Electoral Tribunal will declare you the victor in the 24 November elections?

[Azcona] The victory was given by the people to the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH], and we achieved a victory within the PLH. Consequently, the National Electoral Tribunal has only to enforce the law.

[Question] Are the nationalists claiming a victory?

[Azcona] The National Party of Honduras [PNH] lost the elections.

[Question] Will you meet with President Suazo Cordova prior to your inauguration?

[Azcona] It is quite possible that once I am officially declared president-elect I will meet with President Roberto Suazo Cordova. In any event, it is necessary for us to talk, to discuss our economic problems, national security problems, and other issues. We understand these will be revealed to us only after the National Electoral Tribunal issues a ruling.

[Question] Would you then start with a clean slate?

[Azcona] I have always started with a clean slate. I said during my campaign that I feel no rancor or hatred toward anyone. We will start a new government without dastardly actions, without looking back; instead, we will think about the enormous task we have ahead, because it will require all our efforts and dedication. We cannot waste time in useless revenge.

[Question] Given that Venezuela is a Contadora Group member country, was this topic discussed during your visit to that country?

[Azcona] Yes, we talked about this topic with the president of Venezuela and with the foreign minister. I think they share our view that every possible effort must be exerted to see that there is a political solution to the Nicaraguan problem.

[Question] Does this mean that peace is possible in Central America?

[Azcona] I think it is possible, and the possibility has been strengthened with the appearance of a new democratic and constitutional government in our sister republic of Guatemala. This will strengthen the four republics which are living in democracy so that we may seek or demand that the Nicaraguan Government respect the rights of all citizens in that nation, achieve peace, and embark on a democratic process.

[Question] When will you meet with President Ortega?

[Azcona] We have not thought about that.

[Question] Have you learned about the problem which prevails in Honduras, meaning the crisis and strike decreed by the workers union in....

[Azcona, interrupting] We have closely followed the events. We have seen the reports issued every day.

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY CLOSING

PA212033 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1812 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Speech by President Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the closing of the first legislative session of the National Assembly in Managua -- live]

[Text] Companero Carlos Nunez, president of the National Assembly; companeros of the board of directors; companeros representatives; companeros guests:

On this morning of 21 December 1985 we have heard the first year-end report of this National Constituent Assembly; the first report in the history of Nicaragua presented by a National Assembly chosen directly by the people; the first report in the history of our nation presented by a National Assembly that is obviously pluralist; the first report in the history of our country presented by a National Assembly that has a worthy, patriotic, and nationalist attitude.

Throughout this year the National Assembly has undertaken many tasks. Our companero Commander Carlos Nunez has carefully outlined these tasks for us. These are tasks that are closely linked to the defense of our sovereignty, to the defense of our self-determination, to the consolidation of our revolutionary process. Noteworthy among these tasks is the drafting of the Constitution, the most important task of this National Assembly.

As we all heard, these tasks have been fulfilled because the people of Nicaragua are determined to get this work done. These tasks have been fulfilled because the people of Nicaragua are determined to defend this effort, to defend it on the war front, to defend it each day despite the discomforts and the difficulties experienced in the trenches in the war zone. These tasks have been fulfilled because the people of Nicaragua are also firmly determined to defend these institutional and constitutional tasks with their blood.

It is because of this blood shed by our people, because of the heroism of our combatants, because of the grief of the families of those who have been mobilized and of those who have fallen, because of the Nicaraguan people's heroic efforts in the military defense of the revolution that we are here today hearing of the efforts that this National Assembly is promoting and developing, also for the defense of the revolution.

Our enemy is the U.S. Government. It does not want a pluralistic National Constituent Assembly. It wants a Somozist National Constituent Assembly. Our enemy does not want a dignified, patriotic, and nationalist National Constituent Assembly. It wants a National Constituent Assembly subordinated to its imperialist policy. Our enemy does not want a National Constituent Assembly with representatives of laborers, peasants, and workers. It wants a National Constituent Assembly with representatives of exploiters, enslavers, and latifundists. For this reason our enemies, our enemy, is bent on destroying the people's Sandinist revolution.

For this reason our enemy does not accept the defeat it has been sustaining through its mercenary forces at the heroic hands of the Nicaraguan people. For this reason our enemy, instead of accepting this truth, instead of accepting that the use of mercenary forces as an instrument of aggression to destroy the revolutionary power has failed, instead of facing this truth and searching for a negotiated political solution that would lead to normal relations between the United States and Nicaragua, remains bent on destroying the revolution. Since it cannot do this through mercenary forces -- and they will not be able to do so -- it has been creating situations to use its own power and military means against our people.

For the past 6 months, since June, we have been facing a military escalation on the part of the U.S. Government. In June the strategists of terror finally succeeded in prevailing at the U.S. Congress, and it approved millions for the mercenary forces. Later the strategists of terror managed to get the U.S. Congress involved in the approval of these funds to purchase land, air, and maritime transportation equipment for the mercenaries. Only 21 U.S. representatives did not yield or accept the blackmail policy of the U.S. President and his strategists of terror. The escalation has continued, and SAM-7's have been delivered to the mercenaries. We have heard this at the U.S. Congress. We have learned about it through letters from more than 80 U.S. congressmen to the U.S. President asking him to stop the military escalation against Nicaragua, for him to withdraw those surface-to-air missiles from Nicaragua and from the hands of the mercenaries.

Yesterday we learned about the letter from more than 80 U.S. congressmen addressed to the Nicaraguan president demanding that he lift the state of emergency. The congressmen are sending this letter to the wrong person. We have a state of emergency here because we are the victims of a terrorist, aggressive policy openly defended by the U.S. Government. If we have established a state of emergency here it is because it is more than evident that the U.S. Congress is also involved in U.S. state terrorism against the Nicaraguan people. It is the Nicaraguan people, government, and National Assembly that must demand a little morality and modesty from U.S. congressmen.

And the escalation continues. The United States has decided to deliver F-5 fighters to the Honduran Army. The U.S. Government also defends this right in public. The United States has recently mounted a campaign in Central America to isolate the Nicaraguan revolution. The United States extends its tentacles toward Latin America to provoke the isolation of Nicaragua, Central America, and Latin America. The United States accuses us of promoting military activities of various kinds in other Latin American countries. The U.S. Government has been working tenaciously to involve the U.S. Congress more and more in the government's terrorist policy against Nicaragua. The U.S. Government exerts strong international pressures in Central America and the rest of Latin America, resorting to lies, accusing Nicaragua of drug trafficking. All this is aimed at creating the proper climate at the U.S. Congress so it will yield to blackmail once again and approve military aid for the mercenary forces during the first months of the coming year.

Of course, if the strategists of terror manage to move the Congress, if they succeed in getting the Congress to approve this military aid, we would be virtually on the threshold of a larger military action by the United States, and we could never rule out a direct intervention by U.S. troops. We have been insistently pointing out the danger of U.S. intervention. We have been pointing it out because this is a real danger, because the United States has intervened in Nicaragua on other occasions, because it is waging a war against Nicaragua today, and because they have said that even if the Contadora document is finally signed they will continue to wage an aggressive war against Nicaragua.

There are some who have mocked Nicaragua's charges regarding the danger of direct U.S. intervention in our country, because it has not yet taken place. Of course the charge, the internal mobilization for defense, the international mobilization were necessary to prevent such an intervention from actually taking place. We do not wish for it to take place; the U.S. people do not want this intervention. Such an intervention would not destroy the Nicaraguan revolution, but it would destroy the U.S. terrorist policy, because that intervention would be defeated on the battlefield.

There are some who have refused to consciously or unconsciously give credit to our charges regarding the threat of invasion. They have even drawn a comparison between our situation and the fable of the shepherd and the wolf in which the shepherd continually cried wolf when the wolf had not come. Then one day the wolf actually came; the wolf was for real. And when we denounce a threat of Yankee intervention it is because such a threat does exist.

What has become of the efforts of the Contadora Group with the help of the support group of Lima? We fully agree that the problem that has arisen, that the serious situation that has been brought about in Central America must be resolved through negotiation. That is, we agree to negotiation. However, since there is an escalation of the military aggression by the United States, since there is no willingness on the part of the United States to achieve a negotiated solution, most efforts must be devoted to stopping this escalation, eliminating the military aggression so that there will be the right condition to hold negotiations.

That is the logic behind our position before the Contadora and Support Groups regarding the need for Latin America to strive to stop the U.S. military escalation against Nicaragua, because this is an escalation that directly threatens and undermines Latin American sovereignty.

Of course there is a great struggle in which the entire U.S. military, political, and economic might is pressuring, threatening Latin American governments, blackmailing Latin American governments to commit them to its terrorist policy against Nicaragua, to divide Latin America, to weaken Latin America, which is fighting today in the battlefield against the U.S. terrorist policy in Central America, a policy which is threatening its citizens, self-determination, and independence.

As for the economic aspect, the U.S. terrorist policy seeks to subdue Latin American nations at the expense of the hunger and misery of its peoples.

We have learned about innumerable charges from the United States, which have multiplied in recent days. Nicaragua has made charges as well. It has done so at the organization that the international community has deemed the appropriate forum to air these problems. We have not acted as terrorists. We have behaved like a government respectful of the international juridical order. We have gone to the International Court of Justice -- an instrument for the nations of the world to debate such problems, the rational and logical instrument, born from the ashes of World War II to avert future confrontations. We are respecting international law at the International Court of Justice, which is an instrument of the United Nations, of the peoples of the world.

In contrast, the U.S. Government has clearly declared that they do not recognize or accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. Thus we are faced with a situation in which U.S. might and arrogance have become evident to the world, showing what they really are: imperialists.

We have also recently learned that the President of the United States has decided, and has already signed the order, that all officials of his government -- ministers, secretaries, etc. -- must take a lie detector test. I ask you, how would the U.S. rulers have reacted, how would the President of the United States have reacted, and how would the Nicaraguan traitors have reacted -- those who agree unconditionally to everything the United States does, while condemning anything Nicaragua does -- if, when we decided to establish the state of emergency for more than justified reasons we had also announced the decision of the Nicaraguan Government to submit to the lie detector test here in Nicaragua anyone suspected of cooperation with the counter-revolution, the CIA, and the imperialist aggression?

They surely would have accused us of being totalitarian, of being a police state. We would have been accused by some church hierarch, by the CIA newspaper, and by those political leaders, traitors to the country. Yet the U.S. President decides to adopt a measure such as that, which is unprecedented, except in Hitler's time. That is why we have said that the U.S. President is emulating Hitler.

If there is a state that has adopted a truly police measure, unlike any other state in the world, it is the United States of North America. The measure is totalitarian and fitting for a police state, which exempts only the President of the United States from taking the lie detector test. And since Secretary of State George Shultz protested and said he would resign if he were asked to take the test, he was also exempted.

Here in Nicaragua we do not have that distrust of our people, of our officials. Here in Nicaragua we shall never subject anyone to the lie detector. Here we shall never subject any government official to a lie detector test. However, it seems the U.S. president trusts the lie detector more than he does the International Court of Justice.

We would be willing, as a way of finding a solution to this problem -- we have sought so many alternatives -- to submit ourselves to a lie detector test. If President Reagan takes a lie detector test he will also give one to find out who is lying. Let us find out who is lying when he accuses the other party. I think President Reagan is being cautious. Since he is the biggest liar in the world he is being cautious, and he exempted himself from the lie detector test. And he made suspects of all his government personnel and cabinet members.

The U.S. aggression, its military escalation, all these actions of state terrorism openly defended by the U.S. Government force us to a greater unity, a national unity to defend our country. We do not understand this national unity to be a weakness of the FSLN or any other party. We do not understand this national unity to be a weakness of the Nicaraguan Government. We do not understand this national unity as a weakness of our Armed Forces, because there are some who [words indistinct] when we appeal for national unity and think the moment has arrived for them to blackmail and pressure the government and get concessions.

We do not want this type of national unity. This type of national unity does no good for the Nicaraguan nation, national unity without conditions to defend political pluralism within the revolution, to defend sovereignty, self-determination, and the independence of Nicaragua. National unity is necessary to better wage this struggle.

Based on such a national unity, we will continue to convoke the unity of the Central American peoples, the Latin American peoples, and the rest of the world. National unity is necessary to confront foreign aggressors. Other efforts have occurred parallel to this domestic effort at national unity. These efforts actively involve Central Americans and Latin Americans, bringing closer political, pluralist, and negotiating forces.

When Vinicio Cerezo, the Guatemalan president-elect, visited Nicaragua he presented the idea of a Central American parliament. We have received this idea. In fact, experience has shown that in the Central American crisis communication among representatives of the Central American congresses has been less difficult than among Central American presidents.

Representatives of this National Assembly have met many times with Central American countries' representatives with whose governments it has been impossible to establish and carry out a dialogue. In other words, a parliament becomes and is an important foundation to promote dialogue for peace in Central America. It is also an important force to foster dialogue in Latin America. We are willing to sign the accords and treaties that strengthen a Latin American parliament. Central and Latin American parliaments have been playing and will surely continue to play an even more active role in this struggle for peace.

The struggle for peace is a struggle to defend the sovereignty of Nicaragua, which is being attacked by a foreign power. The defense of peace is a struggle for the Central American problems to be resolved through dialogue and negotiation. The defense of peace is a struggle against the foreign debt and our great economic problems that affect Latin American free states.

Here in Nicaragua we, besides promoting national unity, have asserted and continue to assert the Nicaraguan Government's and this assembly's willingness to grant amnesty to all Nicaraguans who are directly or indirectly involved in armed counterrevolutionary actions. We have open doors here for all of those Nicaraguans. Those people in this country who are genuinely interested in achieving a peaceful solution should call, through their political or religious messages, on those people who are also victims of imperialist aggression and ambition to take advantage of the amnesty.

We are moved by a peaceful will, a peaceful inclination; we have faith that we will achieve this objective. We will achieve it by furthering this complex struggle in which the National Assembly plays and will continue to play a very important role in the defense of our revolution. Therefore, it is also playing and will continue to play a very important role in the defense of peace. Thank you very much. [applause]

COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR SAYS 'RELATIONS NORMAL'

PA222007 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 22 Dec 85

[Text] Relations with Colombia are normal. This was said by Bogota's ambassador to Managua. Colombian Ambassador to Nicaragua Abelardo Duarte Sotelo, who had been called to Bogota by Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, said today on his return to Nicaragua that relations between the two countries are normal.

Relations between Colombia and Nicaragua are as normal as the relations between Colombia and the other countries of the area, since Colombia, through the Contadora Group, is working for peace in Central America, the diplomat said. However, the Colombian ambassador would not explain why he had been called for consultations or the absurd charge against the Nicaraguan Government that it collaborated with and supplied arms and men to the 19 April Movement, M-19, specifically for the occupation of the Palace of Justice on 6 and 7 November.

ROBELO SAYS REGIME PLOTTING TO DOWN PLANE

PA201622 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1540 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] The Nicaraguan Opposition Unity, UNO, reported this morning here in San Jose that the Sandinist government is planning to attack a commercial airliner flying through Nicaraguan airspace and then blame the rebels who are fighting against the Sandinist regime. Alfonso Robelo, one of UNO's three leaders, reporting on the situation, said the following:

[Begin recording] According to reliable reports we have received, the FSLN top military command and state security officials, who are receiving advisory services from Bulgarian experts, are planning to down a commercial airliner in Nicaraguan's airspace so as to blame the UNO rebel forces for this action. This sort of operation has as a precedent the Soviet Government's 1983 downing of a Korean Airlines Boeing 747 carrying 279 passengers. This corroborates the similarities in the unscrupulous behavior of totalitarian communist dictatorships. UNO is alerting the governments and peoples of the world about this criminal plot and is today denying any involvement in any action of this kind. [end recording]

Robelo affirmed that, according to reports UNO has received, there have been two meetings between Sandinist state security officials and Bulgarian experts in order to coordinate this operation which -- as UNO stated -- seeks to down an airplane of any commercial airline in order to blame it on the anti-Sandinist forces. We will be expanding on this report during our second newscast today.

Government Refutes Claim

PA202355 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2316 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Managua, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Claims that the Nicaraguan Government intends to down a commercial plane and blame the attack on the rebels are an "absurd fabrication" of the anti-Sandinists, the Foreign Ministry said today.

The Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO) claimed in San Jose, Costa Rica, that the Sandinists, with advice from Bulgarian experts, intend to down a commercial aircraft, presumably of the Spanish Iberia airline, "and then blame the rebel forces for this act."

The spokesperson of the Managua Foreign Ministry, Angela Saballos, told ACAN-EFE this afternoon that the charges are part of "a chain of absurd fabrications" against Nicaragua. She added that "the purpose of such fabrications" is to "increase the U.S. military aid to the contras."

"We have not been nor will we ever be terrorists," the chief of information of the Foreign Ministry said. Saballos recalled that the Sandinist authorities have denounced the use by the "counterrevolution" of the "SAM-7" type missiles, which constitutes a threat to commercial aviation in Central America.

On 2 December rebel forces downed a Nicaraguan Soviet-made helicopter, killing 14 Sandinist militarymen. "With such absurd fabrications, the contras are merely covering up their own actions in advance," the Sandinist spokesman noted.

GOVERNMENT DENIES HELPING SALVADORAN REBELS

PA201503 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry denied emphatically yesterday that the revolutionary government is involved in supplying weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas, as the U.S. State Department has claimed. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Washington's statements are part of a scheme and another excuse to justify its aid to the Somozist counterrevolutionaries, as well as to influence the opinion of the U.S. people and Congress. In response to statements in Washington by Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: We have never helped, nor will we ever help, the guerrillas.

USSR COMMERCIAL PROTOCOL OFFICE OPENS

PA181304 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Managua -- A section for commercial protocol between the Soviet Union and Nicaragua was opened at the Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Ministry today. The opening ceremony was attended by Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, minister for foreign cooperation, and Aleksandr Kachanov, deputy chairman of the USSR's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. A scientific-technical economic and commercial cooperation agreement will be signed by the two countries on 20 December.

Joint Meeting Begins

PA191456 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] The first session of the (Nicaragua-USSR) Joint Commission on Economic, Commercial, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation was installed today at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry.

Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, minister of foreign cooperation, said that, based on preliminary talks conducted by the two parties, the joint work to be carried out will be a success.

Aleksandr Kachanov, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and head of the Soviet delegation, underscored the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries.

After saying that those relations are based on equal rights, mutual respect, and non-interference in internal affairs, Kachanov said that this first work session coincides with the final preparatory stage for the 27th Congress of his country's Communist Party.

This congress has created unprecedented expectations in the USSR and the world, because a new CPSU program, which will specify the general guidelines of the economic, social, and ideological strategy to further upgrade the people's cultural and material welfare, will be drafted.

He also said that in the next 5 years his country will continue its economic cooperation with other countries, especially its aid to Nicaragua. He added that this includes political and diplomatic aid.

RAMIREZ SPEAKS ON DEBT TO PEACE MARCHERS

PA201526 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado said last night that if the Nicaraguan Government and the FSLN had to choose between paying the foreign debt, which amounts to approximately $4 billion, or satisfying the basic needs of the people, they would choose satisfying the needs of the people. Ramirez Mercado made this statement at a meeting with the participants of the March for Peace in Central America. The vice president added that anyone who believes Latin America can pay its foreign debt, estimated at $350 billion, is out of his mind. Ramirez Mercado gave Nicaragua as an example and said that in 1986 the country will have to pay $1 billion in debt service alone. If Nicaragua decides to meet its obligations, it would represent 2 and 1/2 years of work for the people, he added.

OFFICIALS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT DEFEATING CONTRAS

PA201923 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0630 GMT 20 Dec 85

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Excerpt] Managua, 20 Nov -- The top command of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) believe that this year the rebels who are trying to topple the Nicaraguan Government through armed struggle "have completely" lost their strategic capacity to take the initiative in combat.

Optimism runs so high among official analysts that Humberto Ortega, Nicaraguan defense minister and chief of that country's Armed Forces, predicted that the "contras" would be "totally annihilated during the rest of this year or early next year."

Joaquin Cuadra, chief of the EPS General Staff, said that "Reagan's $27 million arrived too late to the imperialist's mercenary wing." According to Cuadra, in view of the anti-Sandinists' inability to engage in major clashes with the EPS, the "counter-revolution" has no recourse but to spend the $27 million in "terrorist" actions.

PASTORA SEEKING SHARE OF $27 MILLION AID

PA192223 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1856 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Text] Washington, 19 Dec (EFE) -- Eden Pastora has asked that the Reagan administration fulfill the U.S. Congress' decision and give ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], his guerrilla group, part of the $27 million approved as "humanitarian aid" for the anti-Sandinists. In statements to EFE, Pastora asserted that the two dozen congressmen with whom he has met during his 5 days in Washington promised to intercede at the U.S. State Department to correct this.

Pastora, who will return to his bases in southern Nicaragua, added: "For the last time, we want an answer, be it affirmative or negative. We want to know whether the administration will assist all those who fight for Nicaragua's freedom." Of the $27 million in"humanitarian aid" approved by the U.S. Congress for the anti-Sandinist rebels, $5.5 million has been delivered to the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) fighting in the north of the country. No other amount has been delivered.

The forces of Pastora, the famous "Commander Cero", estimated to be about 5,000 strong, have asserted that they operate in 30,000 sq km and control 10,000 sq km in the country's south. The ARDE leader said he has not contacted U.S. officials but that congressmen, such as the ultraconservative Republican Bob Dornan, have told him that they will intercede so that the case can be revised.

Over the weekend President Ronald Reagan made an appeal for more support for the "freedom fighters." U.S. analysts estimate that next year he will ask Congress to approve military assistance. Pastora stated that despite his precarious situation and the silence to which he is submitted, "our struggle is not dead. I am dead for the press that keeps silent (...(...), but we remain the same for the Nicaraguan peasants." [sentence as received]

He admitted that a lack of resources prevents him from launching an offensive, but guerrillas activities continue throughout the Nicaraguan south, particularly between the San Juan and Punta Gorda rivers.

For Pastora 1985 has been "positive, hard, and plagued by obstacles and misappropriations by the FDN, which claims as its own our victories in the south. This year has also been one of progress for the guerrilla movement, one in which we have consolidated our organization and acquired considerable political experience."

Pastora said that during the past 12 months his troops have inflicted close to 500 casualties on the Sandinist Army, including dead and wounded. In addition, his men have seized 200 rifles and thousands of rounds of ammunition and sunk 2 speedboats and several motorboats.

He also said: "We lost three bases -- Tango, La Penca, and Sarapiqui -- and won none, because it is true that we cannot capture or defend them. We can only stand by and wait for better times." The Nicaraguan guerrilla leader said that the organization survives with $40,000 monthly, of which about $20,000 is donated by some 20 people in the United States. The rest comes from "friends in Panama, El Salvador, and Venezuela."

EXPANSION OF OIL PRODUCTION, REFINING PLANNED

PA202016 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0854 GMT 20 Dec 85

[By Jesus Aznarez]

[Text] Havana, 20 Dec (EFE) -- Cuba plans to double its oil production activities and reach a level of 2 million tons of crude extraction by 1990. These goals are contained in the preliminary draft of the "Economic and Social Guidelines for the 1986-90 5-Year Plan" to be approved by the Third Cuban Communist Party Congress scheduled for February 1986.

The draft, which has been distributed in working centers for discussion, notes that a capacity to process 11 million tons of crude is expected to be attained by 1990. According to the report, the purpose behind the increase in geological production to twice the levels of the 191-1985 [years as received] period is "to create the necessary base of industrial reserves." The geophysical work in "deep water and shallow water" areas of the insular shelf will be increased, and the drilling of wells will begin at Cardenas Bay.

In this regard, the document drafted by the country's leadership states that making of "the necessary investments" to strengthen the infrastructure of the oil production and exploitation activity will be guaranteed. Regarding fuel refining and distribution, it says that "we must conclude the reconstruction and expansion" of the "Hermanos Diaz" and "Nico Lopez" refineries and the first stage of the "Cienfuegos" refinery.

The USSR is Cuba's largest oil supplier, having increased shipments from 4 million tons a year during the 1960's to over 10,000 tons at the present time. Cuba's foreign exchange savings and collection plan forced its enterprises to strictly enforce this policy, and according to official data, an annual income of over $500 million has been obtained by reexporting the surplus crude received from the Soviet Union. In addition, Cuba and the Soviet Union have agreed on the deliveries of fuel to be made during the 1986-1990 period, Fidel Castro reported during the "First National Forum on Energy" held last year in Havana.

Cuba also expects to complete a port for supertankers in the western province of Matanzas by the middle of the next decade. The cost of this work, which is being carried out with Soviet assistance, has been estimated at over $250 million.

The oil from the Soviet Union is brought to the Caribbean island by tankers that travel a distance of 10,000 km between the two countries.

Regarding the production of manufactured gas, the draft mentioned calls for an increase of as much as 190 million square [as received] meters by the year 1990. Likewise, it includes a plan to begin [building] a network of multiple pipelines, "which will make it possible to transport large quantities of light fuel with great economic efficiency."

25 YEARS OF TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH GDR MARKED

FL201338 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 85

[Text] Cuba and the GDR have signed a trade protocol in Berlin for next year. This is especially significant because the 25th anniversary of the signing of the first agreement is commemorated this year. The document was signed by the two countries' foreign trade vice ministers, Jose de la Fuente and (Dietrich Lemke), with GDR Foreign Minister Horst Soelle in attendance.

BARBADOS

HIGH COMMISSION IN GRENADA TO CLOSE AT YEAR END

FL211430 Bridgetown CANA in English 1419 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 21, CANA -- The Barbados High Commission in Grenada, set up in the wake of the political strife there two years ago, will be closed at yearend, the government announced here. An official statement said the closure reflects the fact that the conditions obtaining in October 1983 have changed for the better and the majority of Barbadians who were helping with the restoration of peace and democratic government had returned home. Foreign Minister Nigel Barrow hosted a reception last night in St Georges, Grenada to bring to an end from December 31, 1985, a resident diplomatic presence by Barbados in that country, the release added.

Barbados High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago Walter Burke, formerly resident head of mission in Grenada, will continue to be accredited to St Georges on a non-resident basis, and diplomatic contact between Barbados and Grenada will be maintained from the high commission in Port-of-Spain, the statement said. Barbados established a mission in Grenada in June 1984 -- eight months after a military coup and the execution of the island's prime minister triggered a U.S.-led invasion to restore order. A resident high commissioner assumed duties October 1984.

During the interim administration preceding December 1984 general elections and subsequently, Barbados provided technical assistance to Grenada in such areas as police, military services, in the drawing of an electoral list and putting the machinery for elections into place, in providing legal services, teachers, nurses, training of policemen and air traffic controllers.

The establishment of a resident high commissioner in Grenada was envisaged as a temporary arrangement to assist Barbados with representational matters relating to the presence in Grenada of a relative large number of Barbadians who were invited by the interim administration to assist with the restoration of peace and order there, and the rehabilitation of the country, after the military intervention, the statement said.

HAITI

CHURCH CLAIMS POLICE KILLED SCHOOL DIRECTOR

FL211238 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 21 Dec 85

[Text] Catholic Church sources in Haiti have confirmed the death of a Catholic school director who was arrested last week. His death has fueled the tension already existing between the Church and the Haitian government.

The Church sources in Gonaives confirmed the death in prison there on Monday of (Regard Bernard). The church authorities, who requested they not be identified, say that Mr (Bernard) was arrested and imprisoned last week by local police without any charges being presented. According to the sources in Gonaives, Mr (Bernard) died on Monday in prison from what they say were beatings inflicted by the police.

FOREIGN MINISTER SEES NEED FOR GREATER USSR TIES

FL192310 Bridgetown CANA in English 2254 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 19, CANA -- It is necessary to consolidate and expand relations between Guyana and the Soviet Union, Guyana's Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson has said. According to Jackson, a firm foundation has been set for the deepening of relations between the two countries.

In an exchange of messages to mark the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the states, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze spoke of the friendly relations existing between the two countries being developed and strengthened on the basis of non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Guyana and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations on December 17, 1980.

A Soviet trade and economic delegation is due in Georgetown early next year for talks with high-level government officials. Discussions will centre on possible Soviet investment in Guyana's bauxite, gold, and diamond industries.

Guyana and the Soviet Union earlier this year signed a barter protocol which will result in the shipment of spares for industry and agricultural machinery, being supplied by the Soviet Union in exchange for Guyana's bauxite.

The visit by the Soviet trade and economic delegation should take place before the end of January, Foreign Ministry officials said.

SUGAR WORKERS BACK AT WORK; POISONING DISCOUNTED

FL192152 Bridgetown CANA in English 2145 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 18, CANA -- Most of the 78 Guyanese sugar workers who became ill yesterday after drinking contaminated water from an estate tank returned to their jobs today, an official of state sugar company said. Initial reports had suggested that the water could have been poisoned, but informed sources said authorities were now looking at the possibility that the water could have been naturally contaminated.

The official of the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GSC) also said 90 per cent of the workers, who went on strike on Monday and Tuesday, returned to their jobs today. The strike was called by the opposition-affiliated Guyana Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU). It did not give a reason.

The union's honourary president, Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan, had threatened to call sugar workers out on strike to protest what he said was the rigging of last week's general elections by the government.

PARTIES REFUSE DUTCH INVITATION FOR TALKS

FL200022 Bridgetown CANA in English 2332 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Text] The Hague, Dec 19, CANA-REUTER -- Political leaders in the former Dutch colony of Suriname have turned down an invitation to visit [words indistinct]. The invitation from the Dutch Parliament was a bid to restore dialogue after three years of acrimonious relations. The Hague suspended a huge aid programme when 15 opponents of Suriname's military strongman Desi Bouterse were executed in 1982.

The Foreign Ministry said Henck Arron, Jaggernath Lachmon, and Willy Soemita, respectively leaders of Suriname's Creole, Hindustani, and Javanese parties, turned down the invitation because they disapproved of the composition of the delegation invited. Diplomatic sources saw this as a reference to the omission of Bouterse, who had ruled the 400,000-strong country on the Caribbean coast since a coup in 1980.

Bouterse and the three leaders agreed on an outline deal last month to edge the country towards a form of representative government. The Netherlands said the deal was not enough to justify restoring the aid programme, but it was keen to discuss it with the party leaders.

POLITICAL TALKS, NETHERLANDS REACTION VIEWED

PM181654 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 27 Nov 85 p 3

[Jan Gerritsen article: "Formal Resumption of Surinamese Dialogue Symbolizes Bouterse's Political Bankruptcy"]

[Text] The Hague, 27 Nov -- Yesterday the government and the Second Chamber party groups in The Hague reacted with "mixed feelings" to the declaration made in Suriname Monday [25 November] marking the 10th anniversary of independence. Feelings of disappointment had the upper hand: The declaration read to 30,000 people in Independence Square in Paramaribo is a lean document.

The most important piece of information in the declaration is that the leaders of the three "old" parties -- that is, those from the period before independence -- have joined the so-called "Supreme Council," the permanent consultative arrangement among the Army leaders, government, trade unions and employers. The party leaders are Henck Arron of the overwhelmingly Creole Suriname National Party, Jaggernath Lachmon of the predominantly Hindustani Progressive Reform Party, and W. Soemita of The Indonesian Peasants' Party, which represent the Javanese population.

The Supreme Council will carry on a dialogue on "political administrative renewal." The partners involved in the dialogue, the declaration stated, will guarantee the conditions through which Surinamese society can achieve a peaceful transition to a democratic and socially just system. And also "the partners guarantee a constitutional state within which lasting democracy will come about."

In order to realize these high-sounding promises the Surinamese Supreme Council in its expanded form is allowing itself plenty of time: The "transitional phase" will end in April 1987. By then there will be a Constitution and popular representation which will again be "in agreement with the principles of lasting democracy."

The former resumption of the dialogue with the old party symbolizes the political bankruptcy of Army leader Desi Bouterse.

His revolution has run out of steam as a result of an absence of popular support. All attempts to produce a political base through "mass movements" (such as "Steadfast") have failed. The attempt to involve the old parties in the exercise of power through their inclusion in the Supreme Council can be seen as the umpteenth maneuver to find a political base for a military revolution.

As we have already said, Bouterse is giving himself plenty of time. And, what is more important, he retains the power that comes from the barrel of a gun. The state of emergency that has been in force in Suriname since the December murders in 1982 is maintained. The "quiet repression" carried out through the military police who can arbitrarily drag anyone from his bed is maintained.

The fine words contained in the declaration cannot hide the fact that "all forms of consultation of the people" (the words are Netherlands Foreign Minister Van den Broek's) as legitimation of the regime remain uncertain. And thus there is still no suggestion of "concrete steps toward the restoration of democracy and legal security" -- the condition that the Dutch Foreign Ministry has made for the resumption of development aid to Suriname. The 1.6 billion guilders which Mrs Schoo , the Netherlands overseas development minister, has on ice will remain there.

In a formal reaction to announcement of the dialogue from Paramaribo, the Netherlands Foreign Ministry said it is "very prepared to come into contact with all partners in the dialogue that has now been formally started." That is a small but not insignificant change of course. Up to now The Hague's reaction to all of Bouterse's maneuvers has been the firm demand for concrete steps, and things have been left at that. In the view of The Hague, the reappearance of the political leaders from the past will, it would seem, offer an opportunity to restart talks with Suriname. And finally: in their day the three old parties united around 80 percent of the Surinamese voters, while Bouterse only represents himself and his privileged uniformed followers.

The former resumption of (diplomatic) contacts -- which have been taking place unofficially the whole time -- seems at present to be a suitable reaction to the Surinamese dialogue declaration from which, as Jaggernath Lachmon admitted, there is so much missing "in order to accommodate the military authorities' sensitivities." The reaction of Overseas Development Minister Schoo , who seems to consider limited resumption of development aid possible, is that this is too optimistic for a majority of the deputies in the second chamber. The Hague's contacts with "all the partners in the dialogue" must first produce clarity about what Bouterse is after: the restoration of democracy and legal security or the resumption of Dutch development aid. Fresh in the memory is Bouterse's statement last month in a Dutch weekly that "nothing will happen in Suriname without the military influencing it."